

Staff Report

City of Loma Linda

From the Department of Community Development

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING OF JANUARY 11, 2006

TO: PLANNING COMMISSION

FROM: DEBORAH WOLDRUFF, AICP, DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: SAN TIMOTEO CREEK HABITAT ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

SUMMARY

The proposed project is a habitat enhancement and vegetation restoration plan on an approximately 30-foot wide corridor along San Timoteo Creek along approximately 10 miles of the creek (see location). Areas along San Timoteo Creek Channel would be re-established as a wildlife corridor with native vegetation. The City of Loma Linda is the Lead Agency and other project participants include the City of Redlands and San Bernardino County.

The project begins south of Redlands Boulevard (0.5 miles east of Waterman Avenue) and ends southeasterly at Alessandro Road (0.75 miles north of the Riverside County Line) in the cities of Loma Linda and Redlands, and County of San Bernardino.

RECOMMENDATION

The recommendation is that the Planning Commission takes the following actions:

1. Adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration (Attachment A); and,
2. Approve the San Timoteo Creek Habitat Enhancement project based on the Findings.

BACKGROUND

During the public hearing on December 6, 2005, Ms. Lisa Ann Pierce of the San Timoteo Canyon Greenway Conservancy testified to the Commission that her group has been working on a trails and open space plan in the canyon for nearly a decade. She also stated that she had not received notice of the 30-day public review period either for the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) document or the public hearing for the project. Ms. Pierce was concerned that the San Timoteo Canyon Greenway Conservancy and other conservancies in the area had not reviewed and commented on the project or the proposed Negative Declaration. Based on her comments, staff suggested that the Planning Commission continue the item to the meeting on January 11, 2006 to allow Ms. Pierce to complete her review and submit comments.

On Wednesday, December 14, 2005, Community Development and Public Works staff met with Ms. Pierce, Mr. William Cunningham of the Redlands Association, and Mr. Tim

Donovan, a Technical Advisor on rivers, trails, and conservation with the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Parks Service, Pacific West Region, Southern California Field Office. Staff provided an overview of the San Timoteo Creek Habitat Enhancement Project and environmental document, and discussed the goals of the project. In addition, staff gave Ms. Pierce until close of business day on Thursday, December 29th to submit written comments to Community Development. This date was selected because it would allow staff some time to review the comments and provide written responses in the January 11th Staff Report. As of the writing of this report, Ms. Pierce has not submitted written comments.

ANALYSIS

As previously stated, no comments from the San Timoteo Canyon Greenway Conservancy (or any further comments) have been submitted. A detailed analysis of the project is available in the December 7, 2006 Planning Commission Staff Report (Attachment 1).

CONCLUSION

Since the December 7th meeting, staff has met with the San Timoteo Canyon Greenway Conservancy to discuss the San Timoteo Creek Habitat Enhancement Project and related environmental document. The Conservancy was asked to submit their written comments to the Community Development Department by December 29, 2005. No comments were submitted by the requested date.

Staff's recommendations regarding the San Timoteo Creek Habitat Enhancement Project and environmental document have not changed. The project will provide enhancements along the creek that will benefit avian populations and the Loma Linda and Redlands area communities. The project is consistent with the existing Loma Linda and Redlands General Plans. The CEQA document indicates that implementation of the project with mitigation will not result in any adverse environmental impacts.

ATTACHMENTS

1. December 7, 2005 Planning Commission Staff Report (*previously distributed*)
 - A. Mitigated Negative Declaration (NOI/Initial Study)